

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION VII
901 N. 5th STREET
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY-REGION VII
REGIONAL HEARING CLERK

IN THE MATTER OF)
)
PRAIRIE LAND COOPERATIVE) Docket No. FIFRA-07-2003-0034
)
RESPONDENT) CONSENT AGREEMENT AND
) FINAL ORDER
)

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

This proceeding for the assessment of a civil penalty was initiated on or about December 5, 2002, pursuant to § 14 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (hereinafter called FIFRA), 7 U.S.C. §136l, when the United States Environmental Protection Agency (hereinafter referred to as "Complainant" or "EPA") issued a "Complaint and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing" to Prairie Land Cooperative (hereinafter referred to as "Respondent" or "Prairie Land").

The Complaint charged Respondent with violating §§ 12(a)(1)(A), 12(a)(1)(E), 12(a)(2)(E), and 12(a)(2)(L) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. §§ 136j(a)(1)(A), 136j(a)(1)(E), 136j(a)(2)(E), and 136j(a)(2)(L). Respondent was charged with a total of five FIFRA violations.

Subsequently, Complainant and Respondent entered into negotiations in an attempt to resolve the Complaint. The Consent Agreement and Final Order set forth herein below is the result of these negotiations and represents settlement of this Complaint.

CONSENT AGREEMENT

It is hereby agreed, and accepted by Respondent that:

1. This Consent Agreement and Final Order is being entered into by the parties in full settlement of, and release from all FIFRA civil penalties that might have attached as a result of the allegations in the Complaint. Respondent has read the Consent Agreement, finds it reasonable and consents to the issuance and its terms and explicitly waives its right to request a hearing on the Complaint, this Agreement, or the attached Final Order.

2. Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations of the Complaint and admits the facts stipulated in this Consent Agreement.

3. Respondent neither admits nor denies the violations of FIFRA as set forth in the Complaint.

4. Respondent certifies by signing this Consent Agreement and Final Order that to its knowledge it is presently in compliance with FIFRA, 7 U.S.C §136 et.seq. and all regulations promulgated thereunder.

5. Nothing in this Consent Agreement shall be construed as a release from, or to insulate Respondent from, any other action under any law and/or regulation administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

6. Failure to pay the assessed penalty may result in the referral of this matter to the United States Department of Justice for collection.

7. Each party shall bear its own costs and attorneys' fees in the action resolved by this Consent Agreement.

8. Each signatory of this Agreement certifies that he or she is fully authorized to enter into the terms of this Consent Agreement and Final Order.

9. Respondent consents to the issuance of the Final Order hereinafter recited and consents to the payment of a mitigated civil penalty as specified in paragraph 2 of this Final Order.

FINAL ORDER

Pursuant to Section 14 of FIFRA, as amended, 7 U.S.C. Section 136l, and upon information contained in this Consent Agreement of the parties herein, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. Respondent in settlement of the allegations set forth in this Complaint, shall pay by cashier's or certified check, a civil penalty, for the violations cited herein, in the amount of Fifteen Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$15,400.00), payable to the "Treasurer, United States of America" and such check shall be mailed to: U.S. EPA-Region VII (Regional Hearing Clerk), C/O Mellon Bank, P.O. Box 360748M, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15251. The payment shall be identified as In the Matter of Prairie land Cooperative. A copy of the check shall be forwarded to Rupert G. Thomas, Office of Regional Counsel, Region VII, EPA, 901 North 5th Street, Kansas City, Kansas 66101.

2. The payment of \$15,400.00 shall be paid on or before 30 days after the effective date of the Final Order (the date by which the payment must be received shall hereafter be referred to as the "due date"). The effective date of this Order shall be the date on which it is signed by the Regional Judicial Officer.

3. If payment is not received on or before the due date, interest will be assessed at the annual rate established by the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to 31 U.S.C § 3717. The interest will be assessed on the overdue amount from the due date through the date of payment.

COMPLAINANT
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

By: _____

Rupert G. Thomas
Rupert G. Thomas
Attorney
Office of Regional Counsel

Date: _____

2/7/03

RESPONDENT:
PRAIRIE LAND COOPERATIVE

By: _____

Ed Vaughan *Ed Vaughan*

Title: _____

General Manager

Date: _____

1-28-2003

IT IS SO ORDERED. This Order become effective immediately.

Robert L. Patrick
Regional Judicial Officer
Region VII

Date: _____

February 12, 2003

IN THE MATTER OF Prairie Land Cooperative
Docket No. FIFRA-07-2003-0034

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that the foregoing Consent Agreement and Final Order was sent this day in the following manner to the addressees:

Copy hand delivered to
Attorney for Complainant:

Rupert G. Thomas
Attorney
Region VII
United States Environmental Protection Agency
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

Copy by First Class Mail Return Receipt:

Richard Vaughan
Registered Agent for
Prairie Land Cooperative
115 E. Oak Street
Hubbard, Iowa 50122

Dated: 2/13/3

Kathy Robinson by Debby White
Kathy Robinson
Regional Hearing Clerk